



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota Department of Health Recognizes National School Nurse Day

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is recognizing the important role school nurses play in children’s lives during National School Nurse Day on May 8, 2013.

School Nurse Day is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the accomplishments of school nurses everywhere and their efforts of meeting the needs of today’s students. School nurses improve the delivery of health care in our schools and contribute to our local communities by helping students stay healthy, in school, and ready to learn. School nurses help to keep children healthy and in school, and reduce the amount of time parents and guardians need to take off of work to care for a sick child. This year’s theme, “Advocacy, Access, Achievement: Leading the Way,” conveys the critical role school nurses have served in improving public health and ensuring students’ academic success for more than 100 years. Healthy children learn better, and school nurses are a crucial part of the school-based health team.

“On School Nurse Day, we recognize the significant impact school nurses make on the health of students, staff and communities,” said Becky Bailey, State School Nurse Consultant for the North Dakota Department of Health. “School nurses have specialized skills, knowledge and judgment to manage the increasing health needs of students in our schools and minimize health-related barriers to success. This results in healthier students who are in school and ready to learn.”

Research shows that early access to care is vital. School nurses promote healthy lifestyles and disease prevention for students from their early years through high school. This is increasingly important as our nation begins to move our health-care system from one that is high-cost and high-volume to one that is high-value and focused on prevention. Schools and communities are encouraged to join with their school nurses in celebrating their role on a daily basis to keep children healthy and ready to learn.

For more information, contact Becky Bailey, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4526.

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